terior, this quest for riches has been going on. Often prospecting expeditions are successful and return from "at the back of beyond" with thousands of dollars' worth of precious jewels belted around the bodies of the leaders. But often an expedition leaves Georgetown or Bartica to go up one of the three rivers leading to a diamond field and never comes back.

It is hardly possible to pick up a Georgetown newspaper without seeing such headlines as "Another Boating Disaster in the Essequibo Rapids," "Diamond Hunters Starved to Death Along the Mazaruni," or "A Diamond Expedition Attacked by Indians Along the Cuyani."

Bad as they are, these are only three of the dangers that threaten every diamond hunter. As a matter of fact, so numerous are the perils that a heavy toll in lives is being constantly paid for the jewels that are finding their way from the heart of the jungle to the seacoast. It has been estimated that for the 132,077 diamonds discovered and declared during the year ending June 30, 1902, 264 lives were sacrificed, or two for every thousand of the precious

Here is the story of a party that did get back to civilization with whole skins, but only after encountering a remarkable series of adventures. What these men endured is typical of the perils that threaten every man who seeks his fortune in the new diamond land.

Three young Englishmen-Thorpe, Jerrold and Hodge-led the expedition, which was the first to penetrate up the headwaters of the Cuyani. In the summer of 1901, while they were in Georgetown, one of the trio made a strong friend of an old and withered Indian, who had come from the border land of Venezuela. by giving him a gaudy trifle. Some days later the old fellow hunted up the white man.

"I have not forgotten your kindness to me, senor," he said, "and now I shall reward you-I shall tell you a secret of my tribe. Hundreds of miles to the west, up the Cuyani, near where the Caruno joins it, are big diamond fields.

"Many years ago, when my grandfather's grandfather, and his grandfather lived, the Spaniards came and cleared away the undergrowth and dug in the gravel and found diamonds. I have seen the place myself, senor-the jungle has never grown

myself, senor—the jungle has never grown over it to this day.

"It is just a big slice out of the forest, as if cut with a knife of the great God, and you cannot possibly fail to find it if you go there and search. And then you will come back rich and a great man."

The fire of adventure and the hope of wealth thus kindled by the Indian's tale, the three Englishmen decided to search for the mine, which, according to their information, must have been excavated to paying gravel in the time of Alonzo de Ojeda. They at once set about organizing the expedition and two weeks later they struck out from Bartica for the little known reaches of the Cuyani in a thirty-nine-foot river boat, with two months' supply of provisions, trinkets for the savages they might meet, and a crew of eighteen negroes and mulattos and Indians, each secured for 48 cents a day.

The expedition's first adventure occurred on the morning of the first day. The boat was gliding swiftly through the water with scarcely a ripple at the bow. The boatmen keeping time to the tune with the bang-wish-bang of their paddles, were singing

time to the tune with the bang swish-bang of their paddles, were singing one of their favorite chanties:

Bamboo fire, bamboo fire, Bamboo fire mek so. Bamboo fire mek so. Bamboo fire mek so. Bamboo fire boll yo sali fish, Bamboo fire mek so. Bamboo fire, bamboo fire, Bamboo fire mek so.

Suddenly, straight ahead, where the swimming across the river. One of the Englishmen who sat in the boat's stern fired at the beast and wounded it slightly. Infuriated, it turned, made for the boat, and tracelles it endeavoured to clean the contract of the c

the many who sat in the boat's stern fired at the beast and wounded it slightly. Infuriated, it turned, made for the boat, and reaching it endoavored to clamber in.

In the excitement the boat almost capsized. Luckily at the carlo and the party aley to the river bank. The first might the boat was pulled ashore and the party aley to not be river bank. The first might was typical of all the other and the party aley to not be river bank. The first might was typical of all the other of lasects made sleep well nigh impossible, and tortured the man, both white and black, with their bites.

The first which were kept burning all night long to scare away inguas and other banks of prey force away in a state of the starboard rook, sweving the boat's beasts of prey force out into open mutlay, declaring that they would not one. As the boat was turther and further up the river and away from crillizations are mountful in instead of large ones.

As the boat wont further and further up the river and away from crillizations are mountful in the profession of the captain, diver their revolvers.

As the boat wont further and further up the river and away from crillizations and the first black. The first and the party is the captain, diver their revolvers.

As the boat wont further and further up the river and away from crillizations. The first has the captain of the captain, divert their revolvers.

As the boat wont divide a state of the starboard rook, swerving the boat's beautiful to the starboard rook as well as the starboard rook as well as the starboard starboard rook as well as the starboard rook as the s

DIAMOND HUNTING IN GUIANA.

MANY PERILS OF PROSPECTORS
IN THE FOREST.

Adventures of a Party of Englishmen
—An Attack by a Jaguar—Mutiny of
Boatmen—Deadly Blow Pipes of Indians—Shooting the Essequibe Rapids.

Hundreds of miles beyond the outposts of civilization in British Guiana many men are daring death in various forms in virgin vironcal forests to work the lately discovered diamond fields.

For three years, ever since some Indians from the interior appeared in Georgetown with several diamonds and a story that they had been found in gravel in the inerior, this quest for riches has been going

been cooking their meal of fish caught
from the meal of fish caught
from the meal of fish caught
from the mud and covered with form the mud and covered with open another little cabin, built of came upon another little cabin, built of poles stuck in the mud and covered with palm leaves. Some naked Indian worden were stitus place, and their poles stuck in the mud and covered with palm leaves. Some naked Indian signs of the caught.

The party advanced, making signs of the children.
The party advanced, making signs of the children.
The party advanced the children.
The party advanced the children.
The party advanced the blowpipes and displaying blankets and beads, but the women, throwing themselves and Canary Colored Summit—A Nine Days' Climb Covering 18 1-2 Miles, Only to Find the Geal Unreachable.

HAVERHILL, Mass., March 14.—Walter I.
Perkins of this city, a member of Company F, United States Signal Corps, now serving baskets, their harmmocks, and all their probaskets, their harmmocks, and all their probaskets, their harmmocks, and all their propositions, and fled into the jungle.

The Mountain's Burning Sulphur Annu ATTEMPT IN MINDANAO.

The Mountain's Burning Sulphur Pissures and Canary Colored Summit—A Nine Days' Climb Covering 18 1-2 Miles, Only to Find the Geal Unreachable.

Haverhill, Mass.,

well.

Thus won over, she went into the forest and persuaded the others to return. Soon the three whites were besieged by several score of Indians, all eager to look at the strange creatures and the wonderful things they had brought with them. By a judicious distribution of hatchets, knives, beads and blankets, friendship was established and a guide was secured, who accompanied the expedition until its return to the creek on its way down the river.

and a guide was secured, who accompanied the expedition until its return to the creek on its way down the river.

When the party arrived at the confluence of the Cuyani and the Caruno, a camp was pitched and several excursions were made into the jungle in search of the old Spanish mine which the Indian had described in Georgetown. He had drawn a very rough map of the place, but it proved useless.

To cut a long story short, the mine was not found. Perhaps the jungle had grown over it; perhaps it was never there at all. But during the search of nearly three weeks in the jungle there was no lack of excitement. Once Jerrold reached over Thorpe's shoulder, as they were going along in single file through dense undergrowth and cut in half a bushmaster snake which was coiling itself on a branch to dart its venomous fangs into Thorpe's cheek.

Another time Thorpe killed a snake over six feet long which was about to attack one of his men. But snakes were common enough, and in time the hunters grew to mind them less than the nests of marabuntas and red ants which they sometimes stepped upon.

Two or three of the boatmen got attacks

mon enough, and it the the the table of the to mind them less than the nests of marabuntas and red ants which they sometimes stepped upon.

Two or three of the boatmen got attacks of fever through these stings, and were only saved from death by careful nursing on the part of their leaders.

Eventually the Englishmen were compelled to give up the hunt. Provisions were running out, and a small canoe with relief supplies had not arrived as it should have done. They decided that they must go down stream and meet it if they were to escape starvation.

As a matter of fact, they nearly did starve. Almost two weeks passed before they came upon the canoe. The provisions ran out completely, and for three or four days the party just contrived to support existence by catching two or three fish, shooting four birds and killing a few iguanas. When the canoe was finally met with, several of the boatmen had become so weak that they could no longer work at the oars.

Returning down the Cuyani, the party searched now and then for diamonds, clearing the undergrowth in likely places, excavating to pay gravel, and washing it in rough troughs. Several stones were found, but none of any great value, so it was decided to go down to Bartica and strike southward up the Mazaruni to the principal diamond fields.

After a long and toilsome journey the fields were reached and a claim was staked out, close by some of the best-paying mines. Clearing the jungle was a herculean task.

A tropical tree, being intertwined and connected with its fellows and often rotten, cannot be depended upon to fall in a certain way. Often it will fall on the woodman. Several of the negroes were badly crushed in this manner, and others suffered minor injuries.

But the principal adventure in the Mazaruni country happened when several out-

Besides Mr. Perkins the party consisted of Walter Goodfellow of the London Theo-

logical Society, Fred W. Abbot, district superintendent of schools at Davac, and Thomas Henderson, a business man of that place. The letter, which is dated at Davao

Jan. 7, says in part:
"We left Davao on Dec. 27 in a native sailing cance, and disembarked nineteer miles down the coast at a small native village called Mateo. Leaving there the next day at 11:30 A. M., we went through a large grass field, near the foot of the first moun tains. After crossing the Sibulan River we struck into heavy timber, where we found our first ravine. Surmounting this we entered into a magnificent bamboo forest, and at 4.30 P. M. arrived at a small Bogobo settlement called Sibulan, stopping at Datto

Tungcalings's for the night.

"The houses at this place were built entirely of bamboo and presented a very fine picture of the wild woodland life of the inhabitants. They grow hemp, bananas and sugar cane, the latter of which they turn into a native rum by a process of nearly the same kind as the stills in Ameirca. We procured native bearers there and left on Dec. 30, continuing on as before through bamboo forests and passing many ravines. Going down through one of these ravines we struck Kinamatt, a small place entirely surrounded by mountains and not over 200 yards square itself. At this place we went into the Sibulan River again, but it was far different from the first, running in a torrent and being walled in by perpen-dicular masses of stone on either side, varying in height from 200 to 300 feet.

"The scenery along the river cannot be described. After passing up the river for two and a haif miles, climbing over rocks and fording the stream, we struck a high mountain, on top of which was Taodaya, the last inhabited place before reaching the mountain. A peculiar thing about the Bogobo inhabitants of these mountains is that they build their houses on the top, instead of in the valleys, and clear the crest of the hill for cultivation. They grow corn, palay, sugar cane, peppers, and most peculiar of all. cucumbers and squashes, entirely the same as the American vege-

tables of the same name. "Here at this place we first began to notice the temperature, and the next morning, which was Dec. 31, the thermometer was down to as degrees, which was a vast

was decided to go down to Bartica and strike southward up the Mazaruni to the Affer a long and tolloome journsy the fields were reached and a claim was staked out, close by some of the bear to the stake of the control of the contro

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